

Country Journal

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WESTHAMPTON

Collectors work on tax bill solution

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard discussed a variety of issues during their first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 4, including a small error in information with tax bills. Tax Collector Patricia Cotton just started as the collector on Friday, Jan 1. Cotton told board members that she met with the previous tax collector, Ann Marie Knox, on her proposed last day, Thursday, Dec. 31, where the two ran into a problem with tax bills. Cotton said she received calls from someone who received bills for property’s that were sold two-and-a-half years ago. “We’re not quite sure what’s going on, we’re going to have to meet with the assessor,” Cotton said. “We don’t know if the file went wrong, we don’t know if it’s just one or if it’s going to be more than that.” She added neither her or Knox know the extent of the errors and they will both

TAX, page 3

Lake Life



Littleville Lake in Huntington sits calmly before last week’s winter snowstorm. Submitted photos



Russ LaPierre goes as far as the rocks allow in the lake.

WORTHINGTON

Power, school on new year plans

By Peter Spotts

The new year is shaping up to be busy for the town as special town meetings, projects, and three phase power upgrades are all slated for 2021. Selectman Charley Rose said the completion of three phase power on Route 143 will open up new business opportunities for the town and provide a second source of power for the town in case of outages.

IMPROVEMENTS, page 13

BLANDFORD

Looking ahead to new year in town

By Mary Kronholm

The end of 2020 brings hope to town officials, business owners and residents that 2021 will bring improvement, but also stay mindful about being safe and keeping the community safe from COVID-19. “I expect we’ll see more of the same, we just put our minds to work, asked questions, took action to mitigate risks in line with anticipated success, and we were able to make things happen,” Selectman Eric McVey said. “Challenges that as a town we’ll rise to and apply creativity to resolve, while we look out for our neighbors and friends.”

NEW YEAR, page 6

BECKET

Marijuana business gathers public comment

By Shelby Macri

Mark Goodenough and Brian Vincent applied for a marijuana cultivation farm in town and hosted a public meeting on Sunday, Jan. 3, to answer any questions about their proposal. The Panning Board will vote on the application on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. The public meeting was held to introduce the partners of the establishment and give information on

what they plan to do if their application is accepted. The meeting allowed for residents to comment and ask questions, and to understand more of the planned operations. Goodenough explained that he has had experience in growing and cultivating marijuana, and he believes he can successfully recreate his process in Becket. The proposed establishment, Petrahydra Agricultural Technologies, provided a slide show of information.

The establishment would include wholesale products that would be sold to dispensary’s, however there would be no retail sales or onsite foot traffic at all. The plans for the farm include a 120-to-150-foot greenhouse and 43,560 square feet outside with an area to use for outdoor farming. Selectboard member Michael Lavery attended the public meeting to hear and learn more about Petrahydra. Both Goodenough and

Lavery said residents’ main concerns involved lights and possible light pollution and the odor of the plants. “There were many comments about light pollution, we’ve also had that thought and we work with inferred cameras,” Goodenough said. “Our security has flashlights, but those are low light, and we won’t need flood lights.” Goodenough explained that the company would be

MARIJUANA, page 3

GOSHEN

Broadband, study on tap for 2021

By Shelby Macri

While the town saw the impact of the pandemic early in 2020, essential services were kept running, a few projects were completed, and the town is looking forward to a brighter 2021. The town saw the addition of a new roof on the New Hingham Elementary School, completed repairs to the Transfer Station landfill project, and frequent updates to the town website to be user friendly during this time

BROADBAND, page 13



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HILLTOWNS

BBB warns of COVID-19 vaccine scams in 2021

With United States and Canada approving a COVID-19 vaccine, government officials expect scams to emerge as distribution begins. Watch out for everything from phony treatments to phishing messages.

Government officials have already been cracking down on phony COVID-19 testing kits and treatments. Now, they are ramping up efforts to prevent the sale of fake vaccines.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is working with the drug companies developing the vaccines to stop the sale and distribution of phony versions. Also, the Federal Trade Commission issued warning letters to several companies claiming they had a product to cure or prevent the virus.

Selling fake vaccines and other treatments is likely only one of many ways scammers will try to cash in on the vaccine release. Watch out for phishing messages attempting to trick you into sharing your passwords and personal information. Con artists have already impersonated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization (WHO) in phishing emails that claim to have news about the disease. BBB has also seen an increase in scams using robocalls to impersonate government officials.

How to Spot a Coronavirus Vaccine Con:

Research carefully: Scammers are very creative, so be skeptical of anything that seems too good or crazy to be true. Double check any information about the vaccine with official news sources. And be aware that none of the vaccines can be currently purchased online or in stores.

Check with your doctor: If you want a vaccine early, reach out to your healthcare provider about your options. If you don't have a primary care physician, check out the official website of your local health department for more information

Ignore calls for immediate action. While you may want to be first in line for the vaccine, don't let that sense of urgency cloud your judgment. Scammers try to get you to act before you think. Don't fall for it.

Think the link may be real? Double check the URL. Scammers often buy official-looking URLs to use in their cons. Be careful that the link is really what it pretends to be. If the message alleges to come from the local government, make sure the URL ends in .gov (for the United States) or .ca (for Canada). When in doubt, perform a separate Internet search for the website.

For More Information

Read more about coronavirus scams on the Federal Trade Commission's website. Learn more about the disease at the CDC's FAQ page. Also, the FDA is updating this page about its progress in developing a treatment for coronavirus.

BBB has identified many ways in which scammers are cashing in the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about clinical trial scams, contract tracing cons, counterfeit face masks and government agency imposters.

Northwestern DA's office warns of proliferation of scams

Consumers have reported to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office Consumer Protection Unit that they have received calls from scammers identifying themselves as an employee of the Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices demanding payment for court charges.

Scammers may identify themselves by name, saying that they are in the Civil Division, and threaten the consumer by saying that he or she has broken the law by not reporting for a federal grand jury. These calls may sound very real and can be intimidating, especially if the caller claims to be from law enforcement or a government agency.

"The best thing to do is to hang up, if anyone demands money, payment with gift cards or threatens you," Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan said.

Consumers shouldn't trust their caller ID, Sullivan said. It's best to let any unexpected calls go to voicemail. It's a busy time of the year for scammers.

"We have been hearing about computer scams, where someone calls or emails and says there is a problem with your computer and offers to help; fake package delivery notices (Amazon, Fed Ex, UPS) or fake account problems (Amazon, PayPal, credit card) by email or text message," Consumer Specialist Anita Wilson said.

Wilson said consumers are still getting calls from scammers saying they are from the Social Security Administration. The caller ID might say Social Security Administration, or it may look like it's coming from your neighbor.

"I got a call last week and recognized the name, so I picked up the phone. It was a robocall," Wilson said.

More people are at home so they may be getting more calls or might be more likely to pick up the phone especially if it looks like a neighbor calling. They may be busier getting ready for the holidays and may not be as careful or as diligent in verifying information before reacting to a phone call or text.

"People are also doing more shopping online so it could be easier to get fooled by package delivery or account scams," Wilson said.

New scams coming

The Federal Trade Commission is already warning of COVID-19 vaccine-related scams and advises consumers of the following:

- You likely will not need to pay anything out of pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call you asking for your Social Security number or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments or medicines to prevent the virus. Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19-related treatment.
- If you get a call, text, email — or even someone knocking on your door — claiming they can get you early access to the vaccine, STOP. That's a scam. Don't pay for a promise of vaccine access or share personal information. Instead, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov or file a complaint with your state or territory attorney general through consumerresources.org, the consumer website of the National Association of Attorneys General.

Consumers can learn about more scams that have been reported locally by reading the Consumer Scam Sheet at the Northwestern District Attorney's website at NorthwesternDA.org. More information about scams is included in the 2021 NWDA Consumer Protection Calendar.

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BECKET

MARIJUANA

from page 1

growing organically and will utilize the sunlight and reduce their light footprint. The sun is important in organic growing and using it will offset the lights they do use. The lights that are used are low light and they aren't used throughout the entire process. Goodenough addresses the concerns of odor by explaining that the plant doesn't give off an odor its entire life, it's only during the last stage an odor is noticed and then it will be harvested and sold.

There is enough land that the organic farm can be placed further back to subdue the odor and ensure that it won't affect the surrounding neighbors. Goodenough has thought of these concerns as well and is finding ways to work around any issue. He's also interested in staying organic by working with living soil with natural enzymes rather than fertilizers. Goodenough said people were mostly supportive during the meeting and he is looking forward to the next step. He also mentioned that the company would expand into technology and bring in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) environment, where robotics would be integrated, as well as other technology to make the work better or easier. The integration of technology will limit the risk of people getting injured, though there are still opportunities for jobs at the establishment.

"We're going to try to form outreach with others after we've been established in the community," Goodenough said. "Including veteran outreach, first responder outreach, STEM outreach, and outreach for other jobs." He added they are expecting to hire at least 20 people in the local area, if approved.

Goodenough works with a diverse group of people and will be headed to Becket with a crew of 17 farmers and

two other partners, including Vincent. He is planning to build on the success that he has seen this system produce, and said he's excited to show the therapeutic value that marijuana, or cannabis, has. Lavery also mentioned the therapeutic and medicinal value of cannabis, noting he has a medical card and sometimes uses cannabidiol known as CBD for chronic pain from an injury he received while in the service.

"I don't have a problem with it, and it helps a lot of people, and there are a lot of companies that are focusing on the medical use," Lavery said. "I support any place that wants to hire vets, those who are disabled, and people who have had wrongfully criminal backgrounds with it [cannabis]."

Lavery attended the public meeting as a resident and when it comes to being a Selectboard member, he treats it like any other license that needs to be approved. He said that he sees it as equal to a liquor or pour license, and that he'd rather have it licensed and taxed than on the street.

While there is a limit of two dispensaries in town, there is no limit on the number of cultivation farms, but there are currently none approved. Lavery said the Selectboard doesn't vote on the application; that will be the Planning Board's duty. There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. for the planning board to cast a vote on the establishment. Lavery said that he would attend as a resident to see the outcome of the vote.

Goodenough is looking forward to the meeting and hearing the end vote of the board; he has taken residents' concerns into consideration and hopes to be able to take this next step with Petrahydra Agricultural Technologies in Becket.

HUNTINGTON

IN SYNC



Russ LaPierre synchronizes with a tree on Goss Hill in Huntington. Submitted photo

WESTHAMPTON

TAX

from page 1

have to rely on residents to call in with issues. Cotton said there's been a change in software, a change in companies, and a change in personnel, so there are a lot of changes allowing for some hiccups to occur.

Acreage was put in square feet rather than acres and people owned one million acres because it was calculated wrong; the information is not wrong it's just in the wrong format. Due to the hiccup, Knox is staying in the office to help Cotton sort out any issues, with the thinking that two heads are better than one.

"I say this optimistically, but you guys have a lot of brain power between you both," Selectboard Chair Philip Dowling said. "I think you'll get to the bottom of it." Cotton agreed that she and Knox would sort it out, but that it may take some time.

Highway Superintendent Bill Jablonski said some information was wrong as his family member received an error in their bill, adding that land information and values were messed up. "I don't want to walk in, and she doesn't want to leave it the way it is," Cotton said. "Both of us are committed to figuring out what's going on and how do we fix it."

Cotton will be meeting with Knox on Thursday, Jan. 7, to listen to voice-mails from residents, and see if there were further problems. The collectors need people to call in order to know

there was a mistake, so she and Knox are at the mercy of the residents contacting them to know if something I wrong.

"We might not know what we don't know, because we don't know until people call," Cotton said.

Dowling brought up the budget to see if they will be able to pay Knox for her help, and explored the possibility of using the \$3,500 that was allotted for the tax collector transfer. He explained the board set aside the \$3,500 with the thought that down the road there would be training needed. Dowling discussed splitting the \$3,500 three ways for the training of the new treasurer, training of the tax collector, and the help that Knox is providing.

Town Administrator Cheryl Provost said the \$3,500 is going into one account and the finance committee will be continuously meeting over the next couple of months, so the proposal should work. Cotton said so far, she has only heard of the one parcel that was messed up, but that she is keeping her eyes open to catch any other issues.

If someone has a question regarding their tax bills, they should contact the Assessor's office or the tax collector's office. Cotton said she and the Assessors share information and work together, and will do the same to solve any issues that occur due to the changes in the office. To reach the Assessor's Office, call 413-203-3083. To reach the Collector's Office, call 413-203-3084.

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

For the First Sunday after Epiphany, our readings from Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11, celebrate the waters of grace and healing that transform our lives and the world. We are invited to wonder about hydrating ourselves spiritually as well as physically and refreshing ourselves daily in the waters of baptism where we may gain

courage and strength for the facing of these days.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

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OPINION



GUEST COLUMN

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

A Barre resident called to say he had pine siskins and evening grosbeaks at his feeder. Several people also reported seeing pine siskins. It appears to be an irruptive year; species including finches, evening grosbeaks, pine siskins and red-breasted nuthatches are moving south in high numbers.

Evening grosbeaks are eight inches long. The male has a yellow body, darker head with a bright yellow eyebrow and black and white wings. The female is brownish gray overall with yellow on the nape and black and white wings. The bill is yellow in winter and pale green in the summer. It is the same for both sexes.

Its song is a halting warble and the call is a ringing “peeer” and when given by a flock sounds like sleigh bells. Evening grosbeaks feed mainly on seeds of trees such as box elder, sugar maples, pines and tulip poplars. They also eat fruit, buds, nuts, insects, tree sap and road salt. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds.

The female lays two to five blue or bluish green with dark marks in a nest of lichens, twigs, roots and mosses lined with finer materials. The evening grosbeak breeding range is expanding. It is also an irruptive species, occurring in large numbers in some years. During this time, it is common at bird feeders.

Flying turkey

I received an email from a Quaboag Current reader. She said, “Last month, my neighbor had a turkey fly right through her closed condo window. She was not home, fortunately, but another neighbor had witnessed four large birds chasing the turkey, who was flying high. She entered the condo fearing for the safety of some cats there and eventually after trying to talk turkey shooed the turkey out with a throw pillow through another window she opened. However, much havoc was wrought. Glass, feathers, a bit of blood, were in every room, but the bathroom. A search was made in the woods behind us, but the injured turkey was not found.” She said the general response was “Well, it is 2020.”

Birds during snow storm

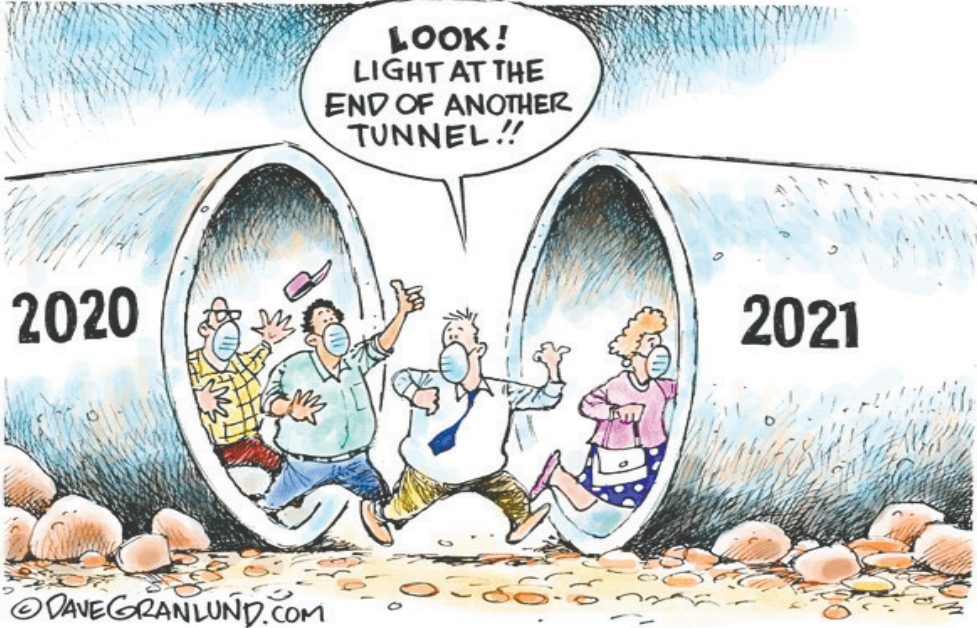
Last Saturday, Dec. 5 I had lots of birds at my feeders during the snowstorm. American goldfinch and black-capped chickadees perched on the thistle (niger) seed feeder with up to five or six at a time. Tufted titmice also grabbed thistle seeds. The male cardinal came to the tray feeder, which had black oil sunflower seeds. While the male ate from the tree, his mate gleaned seeds on the ground under the feeder. I had lots of bluejays as well. At one point, both the male cardinal and a blue jay ate from the feeder at the same time. Their blue and red

BACKYARD, page 5

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blais must follow through on Question 4

We commend all the voters in the 1st Franklin District in November who put themselves on record for a more transparent and accountable state legislature. By an overwhelming margin, voters approved Question 4 calling on state Rep. Natalie Blais (D-Sunderland) that asked, “Shall the representative for this district be instructed to vote in favor of changes to the applicable House of Representative rules to make the results of all the votes in that body’s Legislative committees publicly available on the Legislature’s website?” The ballot question passed in all of the district’s 19 towns with 84% in Chesterfield, 85% in Goshen and 89% district wide. But our work is not done until this legislation is passed.

Later this month, the Massachusetts House will debate and vote on a package of rules to guide it through the 2021-2022 legislative session. Among the reforms to be proposed, are all committee votes and testimony to be made public, bills must be in print and available to lawmakers and the public for 72 hours prior to a final floor vote and the threshold for a recorded roll call vote be lowered by a request of eight representatives from 16, the same percentage as in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Each of these is common sense and will benefit citizens who want to learn more about how public policy reforms are made on Beacon Hill. It was President Thomas Jefferson who said “an informed populace makes wise decisions.”

Massachusetts scores poorly on measures of the adequacy, availability and

accessibility of our state’s legislative data relative to other states. In 2013, the Open States’ Legislative Data Report Card gave us an F, putting Massachusetts at the very bottom along with Alabama, Kentucky and Nebraska for the least open state legislatures. In 2015, the Center for Public Integrity gave Massachusetts an overall grade of D+ with an F for public access to information and a D for legislative accountability. Comparing how state legislatures make their data publicly available, the Open Legislative Data Report Card grades our neighboring states of CT and NH the highest marks from Open States — openstates.org/reportcard/

Where you come in is to follow up with emails and calls to Rep. Blais to honor the strong mandate for these rules changes by heeding the will of her constituents by voting for each of them when the House rules are considered this winter. Your state representative needs to hear from you because during a December 11 meeting with constituents, Rep. Blais said she was undecided on these rules changes and wanted to hear more from residents in her district.

If you agree that a more open state government is a priority, then contact Rep. Blais at natalie.blais@mahouse.gov and 413-362-9453 and make your voice heard.

We can do much better than this!

Elizabeth Bell-Perkins
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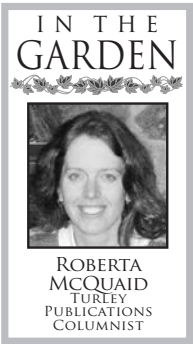
GUEST COLUMN

All-America Selections for 2021 named

With the holidays behind us it’s time for a pick-me-up. Nothing cheers me more than dreaming about my next garden. I love the early planning stage most of all and it starts about this time each year. Seed catalogs begin to arrive in the mail and the glossy photos and “flowery” dialogue lure me to open the pages and curl up with a notebook and a warm cup of tea. I began this yearly ritual over three decades ago and it never grows old. Perhaps you are a like-minded soul who also thinks this is a good way to pass a cold winter evening.

When perusing the catalog, no doubt you will come across the All-America Selections badge of honor next to certain flower, herb, perennial or vegetable varieties. What exactly does it mean to be an AAS winner? You’ll be glad to learn more about this trusted organization and what receiving its award means for your garden.

For the last 88 years, the distinction of All-America Selection has been bestowed on new, worthy cultivars of our favor-



ite plants. They are awarded this honor after thorough testing at independent trial grounds throughout North America, with the nonprofit organization’s motto being “tested nationally and proven locally.” AAS judges compare new flower introductions to those that are already on the market, searching for such desirable characteristics as novel flower color and form, fragrance, length of flowering and disease or pest tolerances or resistance. Vegetables are evaluated similarly, with judges contrasting uniformity, ease of growth, harvest-time and disease tolerance and more with already established varieties. After assessing the plants throughout the growing season scores are tabulated and those with the highest average are considered to be worthy of an AAS award. Let’s learn more about two of this year’s winners.

Celosia Kelos Candela Pink is a 2021 AAS flower winner. For those of you who

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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OPINION

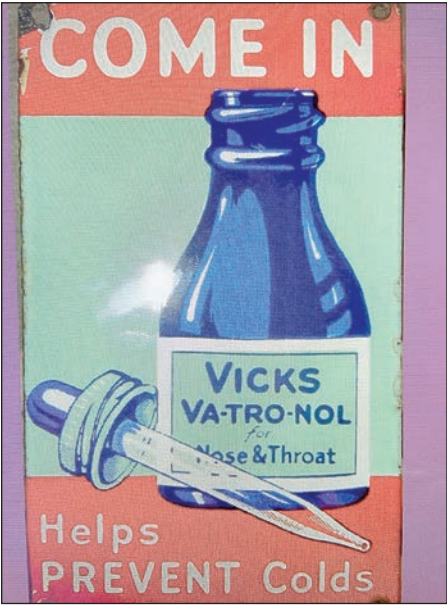
HILLTOWN HISTORY

The Vick's Story

By Deborah Daniels

What will you reach for this winter to relieve your cold symptoms? Why how about that little blue jar that has been around for a century and a quarter? Vicks VapoRub. Its ingredients haven't changed over the course of its history: camphor, menthol, eucalyptus oil, as active ingredients and distilled wood turpentine, cedar leaf oil, nutmeg oil, petrolatum and thymol as inactive ingredients. Not quite sure whether to rub it in on the furniture or your chest? Well it does make a darn good pet repellent. Slather that on Aunt Lill's plastic cover, protecting the parlor furniture and you can bet pets and kids will stay off the good furniture! But seriously this salve has been relieving chest congestion for 125 years. The directions recommend spreading a thick layer of VapoRub on the throat, chest and back, massaging it in and covering the area with a warm cloth. Sounds suspiciously like the idea was borrowed from a mustard plaster, a common, much used earlier remedy. Did you know that was one of the thing's doctors applied to Abe Lincoln after he was shot in 1865? (It was originally thought he was shot in the chest, but it was actually in the head, where he survived for some 12 hours.) A mustard plaster is a mix of powdered mustard seed and flour mixed with a bit of water to make a paste that is applied to the chest for congestion. It acts like a heat treatment by the irritant action of the mustard seed on your skin. The Vicks VapoRub acts the same way with the menthol giving a cold sensation and the camphor giving a warm sensation. Both of these treatments were used on us kids, when we had bad chest colds, growing up, remember Chris? We lived! And hands down, it was Vicks VapoRub over the other.

Vick's VapoRub was first made by Lunsford Richardson (1854-1919), a pharmacist in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1890. He had 21 remedies that he sold under the name of Vicks. His brother-in-law was Dr. Joshua Vick,



A variety of Vik's bottles including VaTroNol nasal drops and VapoRub balm.



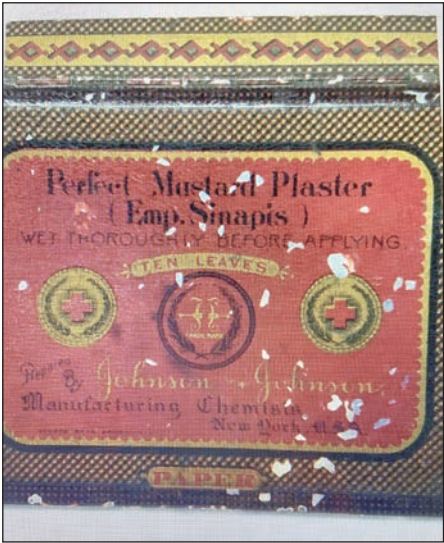
Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels

a long serving MD in Selma, North Carolina who agreed to his using his name. By far the best seller was Vick's Magic Croup and Pneumonia Salve. It was his son who renamed the salve Vicks VapoRub in 1911 and went on to sell it from a horse and buggy throughout the South. He encouraged his father to drop the other products and concentrate on VapoRub. This was all from a son who was asked to leave Davidson College due to poor grades. But then 1/4 of the class was asked to leave for this reason. Interestingly, this son did work in Massachusetts and New York in sales positions before returning to North Carolina to work for his father. The Spanish flu (or coronavirus pandemic of 1918) saw sales of VapoRub soar to \$2.9 million, from \$900,000 previously. It was the go-to over-the-counter remedy for the pandemic.

By 1925, the Vicks Chemical Company used every marketing tool available to keep a cobalt blue pot in every medicine chest. Free samples were sent to thousands of homes in envelopes,

after the United States Postal Service allowed mail to be delivered to rural addresses without a name on the envelope. Vicks claims VapoRub became the third most recognized scent in the world, behind coffee and peanut butter!

It wasn't until 1931 that Vicks came up with a new product, medicated cough drops, with menthol flavoring. It also introduced VaTroNol nose drops that contained a nasal decongestant, ephedrine and menthol, eucalyptus, camphor and methyl salicylate. These became very popular products. They also combined these products in a Vicks Plan to combat colds, with instructional sheets on how to avoid getting colds by using their products. Much of their advertising did in fact educate the public about how your upper airway worked and how viruses attacked the human body. They really specialized in treating colds, bronchitis, nasal congestion and flu symptoms. Cough syrup was introduced in 1952, Sinex nasal spray in 1959, Nyquil in 1966 and Day Care in 1976, that became known as DayQuil in 1990. The "Quils" were multisystem



A Johnson & Johnson tin circa 1886 that held mustard plaster preprepared sheets.

Online graphic

OTC preparations, meaning there was a medical compound to treat all your cold symptoms, headache, cough, stuffy nose and poor sleep, all in one medication, how convenient! Kind of back to Lunsford Richardson's 21 products again! They latched onto the idea of how important a good night's sleep was in your recovery from a cold. That was another golden ticket to loyalty to Vicks products in an overworked and overstressed society. The Vicks Company had been sold to Proctor & Gamble in 1985. The VapoRub formula of "volatizing menthol and camphor" in a topical ointment continues to provide a sensation of being able to breathe easier during a cold.

So, when cold symptoms strike, do stay longer in the steamy shower, sip your tea laced with honey, savor the chicken soup and rub on some VapoRub before you sleep. You won't need the mustard plaster. Good Health to you!

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

GARDEN

from page 4

know and love plumed celosia, this is your pick. Judges touted this plant as an "Energizer Bunny" bloom-wise. Foot tall bright deep pink flower spikes rise above foliage that tops off just under two and a half feet tall. Flowers are long-lasting and unlike some celosia, keep their color throughout the season. Judges agree that Kelos Candela Pink is great filler for mixed containers, adding height and textural interest but it also succeeds as a landscape plant either in mass plantings or borders. Reportedly it also dries well too, although I will believe it when I try it for myself since most celosia are prone to shattering. This AAS winner is available in plant form only.

Another winner that I am very excited about is Zinnia Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor. This new addition to the ever-popular floriferous and disease resistant 'Profusion' series starts out with a vibrant red center surrounded by golden yellow petals only to transform into shades of pink, apricot and salmon as it ages. Perhaps the next best attribute of this winner after its alter color ego

is that it maintains a compact size of about a foot tall. This winner is versatile, too, succeeding in containers, hanging baskets, mixed plantings and en masse. Another bonus: pollinators love it! Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor is also the recipient of the Fleuroselect Gold Medal award for performance in European trials.

Because testing is local, I feel confident when I purchase plants or seeds of past or present AAS winners and with proper care they should live up to their description in my own garden. For more information and a full list of winners past and present, log on to www.all-americaelections.org. Here you will find many steady Eddies of the garden world.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

BACKYARD

from page 4

feathers stood out against the white snow. I also had white-breasted nuthatches, juncos, woodpeckers and a lone sparrow, which didn't stay in place long enough to identify.

Otters on the ice

Dec. 7, I saw three otters on a section

of Long Pond in Rutland, which had iced over.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.





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**SEND US YOUR
EVENT PHOTOS**



Scan QR Code

Email items to countryjournal@turley.com

As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.

BLANDFORD

Street census mails Jan. 15, potential fines if not returned

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo advises that street list forms for the town’s annual census will be mailed to every household in town on Friday, Jan. 15.

It is imperative that the forms be completed and returned in a timely manner. Failure to comply with the directions on the form can result in a \$500 fine. It does not matter whether you are a renter or a home owner, the form must still be returned. A pre-addressed envelope to the Town Clerk is included with the form which can either be mailed through the post office or dropped in the grey box outside town offices.

The requirements are to list everyone in the household; parents, children and others including name, date of birth, and veteran status.

“Including a telephone number is most helpful if there are any questions,” said Jemiolo. Residents can request that telephone numbers be unlisted, or not

published.

The street list form does not replace a voter registration form, and should any registered voter wish to change their party affiliation, it must be done on the appropriate for and not on the street list form. Voter registration forms are available online at the town website.

Now known as the annual street list, the Massachusetts annual town census goes back to the 1600s, when men who wished to become registered voters were qualified to vote if their property was of sufficient value. By 1860, the qualifications had changed from just property value to also include a man’s length of residency and having paid taxes. By 1890, women were also allowed to vote under the same requirements, but only for members of the School Committee. The law requiring an annual town census has been amended over the years, and currently Massachusetts state law Chapter 51 requires that the Board of Registrars conduct the annual town census. In Blandford, as in most towns, the

Town Clerk’s office does the work.

Originally done house-to-house, since 1974 the information has been gathered primarily by mail.

In each town only a few persons are authorized to have access to the information that you provide, and there are multiple layers of password protection on the computers where the information is stored. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts maintains the security of the system in accordance with Massachusetts data security laws. Information about minors on the street list is never released to the public. Additionally, there are a few specially protected classes of residents whose names do not appear on the public street list, such as public safety personnel and residents of shelters. There are no Social Security numbers or financial information tied to the census.

The information from the returned street list forms has many different uses. These are some of them: The Town Clerk uses it to help the town keep an up-to-

date list of residents. The school district requests reports to help project future levels of school enrollment. The Council on Aging uses the information when applying for grants and to estimate the possible demand for services to those over age 60. The Office of the Jury Commissioner uses each community’s street list to compile a list of residents for jury duty. An accurate list provides a fair and representative jury pool. The Veterans Agent receives a list of the U.S. Military veterans so he can help veterans with their needs.

The presence of a person’s name on the street list may also be used to establish residency for a number of things: to qualify for in-state college tuition; for job applications or special low-cost loan programs; even for adoption applications. It’s important to return the street list because, years from now, it may be needed to prove that someone or their children lived in Blandford or resided in Massachusetts at a certain time and the street list for that year is the proof of residency.

Multiple vacancies on Finance Committee as budget season begins

BLANDFORD — Blandford needs dedicated residents to fill vacancies on town boards vital to town operations, specifically and especially the Finance Committee, whose work soon begins. There are currently two members, but town bylaws mandate a five-member Finance Committee.

Chair of the Board of Selectmen Cara Letendre said, “Much of what we have accomplished in town to-date is largely thanks to the town residents who contribute on our local boards and make important decisions that impact the fabric of our community. If it’s not for them, I can’t imagine getting anything done.”

The Finance Committee is a three-year appointed position. The appointing committee is the Board of Selectmen, Moderator, and Town Clerk. The Finance Committee’s responsibility is the development of the Town’s annual budget and recommendations at the Annual Town Meeting. Blandford’s budget process begins in January when the Finance Committee meets with Town departments to go over their submitted budgets for the upcoming year. The Finance Committee works with

the Town Administrator to prepare the budget and present it at their informational meeting before the Annual Town Meeting in May, and then again at the May meeting. The bylaw about the committee’s duties is available online at the town’s website, or by calling the Town Clerk.

Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia said, “The ability to self-govern is the right of the people as citizens of this country and as Blandford residents. Maintaining that right is a great responsibility and requires citizens to step-up and take active roles in local government.”

Residents in Town interested in joining the Finance Committee and the Town Hall team and who want to put into practice their right as a citizen of the Blandford community, should send a letter of interest to the attention of the Board of Selectmen and addressed to the Town Administrator at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 or administrator@townofblandford.com. Interested residents may also contact the Finance Committee Chair, Janet Lombardo at jlombardo52@yahoo.com.

Open Burning Season begins Jan. 15

BLANDFORD — Open Burning begins Jan. 15 and continues through May 1.

Permits are available through the Fire Department online via the town’s website at townofblandford.com. If a resident does not have internet access or has difficulty online, burning permits are available by telephone by contacting Fire Chief Dave Mottor at 413-848-4279, ext. 600.

The following regulations must be observed: Only brush may be burned; all other materials are illegal. No leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris or any other materials may be burned.

All open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from buildings or structures.

Burning starts at 10 a.m. and must be extinguished by 4 p.m. Any open

fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.

No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in open air at any time except by permission.

Burners must be 18 years or older to apply for a permit and set, maintain or increase a fire once permission has been granted by the Fire Department.

Burners must have an appropriate means to extinguish an open air fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.

The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time. For example, a violation of permit regulations or change in weather conditions.

Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and only on the day anyone wants to burn. No permits will be issued in advance due to the potential change in weather conditions.

WORK REWARDED



Reeghan Morawiec receives a town proclamation from Selectboard Chair Cara Letendre on Monday, Dec. 28, at the Selectboard meeting in recognition of her service to the community as a Project 351 Ambassador.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

NEW YEAR

from page 1

“It’s all about individual responsibility. As long as people stay safe, maybe we’ll be able to go back to normal,” added Jennifer Hamel of Gore Road.

Heading into the new year, town businesses hope to be able to bounce back during the warmer months after the restaurant business took a hit last year. The Blandford Country Club hopes to expand their offerings in the coming year as well.

“We hope that next year will bring more outside play and more new members. The plans include getting back to tournaments and outings. “We hope to do a lot more next year,” he said speaking about the greens. “I hope this is behind us and we can get back to tournaments and outings and wanted, and to resume the use of banquet facilities.”

Jennifer Girard of The Blandford Country Store said, “[We’re] looking forward, we hope to be able to open the restaurant; the town desperately needs a restaurant; and if not, during the warm weather, we’ll serve food outside.”

The town is looking at several major projects starting with broadband. Progress has been despite delays for fiber optic cable installation.

“Although implementation has been delayed by COVID-19, Blandford Broadband will become a reality starting in the spring of 2021, and continuing throughout the year,” said Municipal Light Plant Chairman Peter Langmore. “Customers will be able to enjoy speeds of up to one gigabyte. With online meetings and hybrid education, the addition of high-speed fiber will be essential in improving those services.”

The Blandford MLP is hoping for at least a 90% “take rate,” with 100%, up to \$10,000, of the “drop costs,” including equipment, being paid by the town.

Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia provided a list of other projects the town is targeting for the new year.

“Looking ahead to fiscal 2022, we look forward to completing some of our existing initiatives and also plan for additional capital upgrades including upgrading our management system at the Water Plant, continuing to plan for building a new highway garage, and rehabilitating the existing highway garage to get it ready for Fire Department use,” Garcia said.

As the year progresses, residents hope that “normal” life will be to return at some point in 2021. New resident Nate Maynard is looking forward to settling in and being able to have family visit. He said he is “looking forward to a sense of normalcy” returning.

TJ Cousineau summed it up when he said, “I want my life back.”

Community Newspaper

ADVERTISING

Works!

CHESTER

INVITED GUESTS



The Hilltown Hikers, including Michele Kenney and Linda Malcovsky, were invited to view an old quartz mine in Chester, in the mountain off Soisolo Road.

Submitted photos

Board of Selectmen tackles highway questions

By Peter Spotts

CHESTER — The Board of Selectmen had a couple issues to iron out with the Highway Department during its meeting between holidays on Monday, Dec. 28.

Highway Department Foreman Carl Baldasaro was brought on last year with the expectation he would get his CDL license, which he didn't have at the time of hiring. However, after COVID-19 hit Baldasaro said it's been difficult making the time to take classes, but the board is concerned the CDL is still missing.

"You were hired as a laborer and doing a great job and we promoted you to acting foreman, which you're doing a great job of that as well," Chairman Barbara Huntoon said. "The CDL is a requirement of the job...It's for your benefit, but it's also a requirement of the job particularly if you're looking at

highway superintendent."

Baldasaro said he was waiting on guidance from the board and about the possibility of the town covering the cost of the license classes. Huntoon and Selectman Richard Holzman both expressed concern about setting a precedent by doing that.

"I don't see where the town can pay for the classes. I think we'd be setting a dangerous precedent," Huntoon said.

"I fundamentally agree with that," Holzman said. "You're doing a great job, you've got great potential, but you've got to be prepared, be qualified...I think that's fair."

Huntoon conceded the town going forward should avoid hiring someone for a position if they're missing the required licenses.

"My concern is us setting precedent on both sides of this. We probably, going forward, we will not be hiring

someone without the license. We were a bit over a barrel," she said.

The board also met with the Highway Department as a whole to discuss a gathering held on Dec. 23. Selectman John Baldasaro asked the board to consider the history of the Highway Department Christmas Party, a longstanding tradition, while Huntoon reminded the department about town protocols for gatherings in the current climate.

"I'm not going to discuss the present situation that is being contemplated here but I will talk about past precedent. I remember going to the town garage with my dad when I was 10 years old for the Highway Department Christmas party," he said. "This is a continuation that has gone on for the last 50 years. I understand the climate of today's society, but this has been an annual tradition for many, many years and I think we need to be aware

of this."

"That is why there will not be any disciplinary action. We just want to make sure we are all on the same page...It can't happen on town property," Huntoon said. "I think we all understand it's not an appropriate gathering to have on town property."

The department members will be signing a new copy of the town personnel policy and going forward it is expected any future incidents will not take place. Huntoon also stressed this incident had nothing to do with the performance of the department and she told all the department members they've been doing a "great job."

"This is a reiteration of the policy. I understand where John is coming from," Huntoon said. "It's, number one, against our policies and procedures and, secondly, in the climate of litigation and all kinds of other things it's not happening again."

MONTGOMERY

Library hosts storyteller for three new Zoom tales

MONTGOMERY — Professional storyteller Mary Jo Maichack is offering a new presentation recommended for older teens and adults, a live Zoom reading of three short stories from J.D. Salinger's Nine Stories, followed by a participant discussion of the work. "Three of Nine" Zoom interactive programs will take place on the last three Thursdays of January — Jan. 14, Jan. 21, and Jan. 28 — from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Grace Hall Memorial Library is funding this event.

The three stories featured will be "The Laughing Man," "A Perfect Day for Bananafish," and "For Esmé, with Love and Squalor."

Maichack's long career as a professional storyteller will bring a polished

and nuanced reading of three stories. Her facilitation is kind and supportive. Patrons may want to pre-read the stories, but may simply attend the event and listen. For more information and to register, contact the library.

"Three of Nine" is a new development in Maichack's 30-year storytelling career, the springboard for which was her Bachelor of Arts in English literature from Middlebury College, as well as her family roots. She has performed some 4,000 programs from San Francisco to Vienna, Austria. She has won two national awards for her CDs of storytelling and music, appeared on WGBY-PBS and on the National Storytelling Network, and currently serves as Massachusetts State Liaison to the NSN.

MIDDLEFIELD

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, Jan. 13, is Yankee pot roast with gravy, butternut squash, whipped potatoes, whole wheat bread, and oatmeal cookies.

RUSSELL

Strum and have fun with free online ukulele lessons

RUSSELL — Free online ukulele lessons for beginners to advanced beginners ages 8 and older will be available via Zoom, taught by teacher and performer Dave Maloof.

Lessons will begin the week of Jan. 18; a limited number of lessons are available. Anyone interested should contact Maloof at MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com to sign up and ask any questions about lessons or about buying a ukulele.

Maloof has presented Mass.

Cultural Council-funded ukulele workshops at the Russell Public Library and throughout Massachusetts, and also teaches individual lessons. Each lesson will be 30 to 45 minutes and will be adapted to the student's level of playing and musical interests.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

"Owl Moon" activities kick off new year at the library

RUSSELL — The Russell Public Library wishes everyone a happy new year! The library hopes the community had a wonderful holiday season during these challenging times and reminds its patrons that the library is open during its regular hours, and still offering curbside pick-up. The library appreciates the community's patronage during this difficult time.

The children's section is sliding into winter with many cool activities for kids related to the story "Owl Moon" by Jane Yolen. This beautifully illustrated story is about an adventure that a young girl and her father take during a cold winter's night, such a positive family read-aloud during this wintry season.

Stayed tuned for the other upcoming activities for all to enjoy.

Baystate Health doctors weigh in on what's good for you

SPRINGFIELD – Now that a stressful 2020 has come to an end, there are many ways to make 2021 healthy and safe for you and your family.

Doctors at Baystate Health suggest setting realistic goals and prioritizing what is most important to you, taking small steps, and remembering not to beat yourself up if you encounter a setback in your health goals for 2021.

Some healthy goals to consider as you continue on your journey to good health are:

Make A Plan for Good Overall Health

While weight loss, health screenings and stress reduction are among some of the best ways to achieve and maintain better health, creating a plan that is manageable is the key to success. Look at the new year as a time to set small, attainable goals that you can maintain throughout the year, that will also lead to long term success and better health.

Now is a great time to make an appointment for an annual exam and include your physician in your health goals for the year. For those who don't have a primary care provider, the best time to choose a doctor is before you need one. Over time, your health care needs may change or you may face a new health challenge. The relationship you have with your healthcare provider, who knows you and your medical history, can lead to a better overall outcome that will protect your health. Also, as the global telemedicine trend continues, especially with the advent of COVID-19, it provides a fast and convenient way for you to connect with your doctor for urgent needs such as fever, cough, and skin rash, as well as management of chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Whether you want to lose weight, quit smoking, or reduce stress, your healthcare provider can suggest additional resources such as support groups, reading material, or if appropriate, medications or aids that can help. Getting advice from your primary care provider and support from friends and family is a great way to keep your New Year's health resolutions going all year long.

— **Dr. Linda Schooner**,
Baystate Primary Care at
Baystate Wing Hospital

Don't Allow Sleep Problems To Affect Your Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to more sleep problems at a time when sleep is especially important for health and well-being. Good quality sleep is important for preventing infections



Dr. Linda Schooner

and keeping your immune system working well. Studies have shown that sleep deprived people don't mount the same immune response after vaccinations as good sleepers, so it is important to make sure you get a good night's sleep prior to getting a flu or COVID vaccine. A recent study published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine by Baystate Health's Dr. Eva Mok showed increased rates of flu in patients with untreated sleep apnea. So, getting good quality sleep is just as important as getting enough sleep. If you are having difficulty sleeping or signs of poor-quality sleep with loud snoring, difficulty staying asleep, urinating frequently at night or daytime sleepiness or tiredness, you may benefit from a sleep medicine evaluation.

— **Dr. Karin Johnson**,
medical director, Baystate Health
Regional Sleep Program and Baystate
Medical Center Sleep Laboratory

Get Vaccinated – With all the attention on with the COVID-19 vaccines, it is not too late to get your flu shot if you haven't received it yet. Flu vaccine was updated this year to match the anticipated circulating strains. If you belong to any of the groups prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please get it. Both the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are important means in preventing serious respiratory infections. Beyond the flu and COVID vaccines, it is important to keep up to date on adult immunizations. The protection you have from some childhood vaccines can wear off over time requiring you to get booster shots.

— **Dr. Armando Paez**,
chief, Infectious Disease Division,
Baystate Health



Dr. Armando Paez

Reducing Your Risks for Cancer

Reducing identified dietary and lifestyle risk factors can help prevent many diseases, including cancer. Don't use tobacco, avoid drinking too much alcohol, increase moderate aerobic exercise to at least 30 minutes daily most days of the week (moderately vigorous walking will do), and if overweight, shed some pounds.

— **Dr. Wilson Mertens** -
vice president and medical director,
Cancer Service, chief, Division of
Hematology Oncology,
Baystate Regional Cancer Program,
Baystate Health



Dr. Wilson Mertens

Keeping Kids Healthy – Until everyone gets their COVID-19 vaccines, parents need to model and help their children follow the basic COVID-19 safety

guidelines of mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings with anyone who is not in your close family pod. Parents need to keep their children healthy by keeping up with their regular visits with their pediatricians to monitor their growth, development, general overall health, to give them any needed vaccines to prevent serious infections, and to keep up with medications for common conditions such as asthma.

During stressful times, parents need to be very aware of their children's mental health, checking in with older children on a daily basis about how they are doing, and watching for any signs of depression and anxiety related to the pandemic and social isolation. Also, during the pandemic there are 3 basic tasks for parents.

1. Tell your children that you love them and show them that love throughout the day in a multitude of ways.

2. Tell your children that you will do the best you can to keep them safe during the pandemic, and demonstrate that by modeling mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing and avoiding indoor gatherings with people who are not in your close family.

3. Tell your children that whatever happens during the pandemic you will work together as a family to overcome any difficulties. Modeling resiliency will teach your children the skills that they will need to overcome the difficult problems they may face as they grow older. Pediatricians are here to help patients and families through these difficult times, and parents can reach out to their pediatricians with any concerns about their children.

— **Dr. John O'Reilly**,
chief, General Pediatrics, Baystate
Children's Hospital



Dr. John O'Reilly

Reducing Your Risk for Diabetes – Over 34 million Americans have diabetes and 88 million American adults – approximately one in three – have prediabetes.

Prediabetes puts you at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and also increases your risk of developing cardiovascular disease. By modifying your risk factors and adopting a healthy lifestyle – from eating more nutritious foods and limiting your portions to exercising to maintain an appropriate weight – you can help delay or prevent some of the serious complications of diabetes such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney damage and limb amputations. Aside from reducing your risks for diabetes, if you want to maintain good health in 2021 and beyond, consider if you are overweight eating 20% less which can lead to slow sustained weight loss over time; fit in exercise, even 10 minutes at a time which can lead to significant physical and mental health benefits; addressing your mental health which can be the primary barrier to a healthier you.

Also, quit smoking, this is the best decision you can make for your health.

— **Dr. Chelsea Gordner**,
director, Baystate Inpatient Diabetes
Service, Departments of Adult and
Pediatric Diabetes at Baystate Medical
Center and Baystate Children's Hospital

Good Mental Health

There are many ways to improve your mental health. Consider getting outdoors for walks in nature, ideally with others (socially distanced and masked). Find opportunities to be kind. Even though many of us are hurting in various ways nowadays, it's not unlikely that there are others who are hurt-



Dr. Barry Sarvet

ing even more. It's important to remember that we all have things to give: attention, compassion, listening, forgiveness, it doesn't have to be material. Giving feels good year round, much better than receiving.

Also, be kind to yourself: treat your body well by eating healthy food and not overwhelming it with unhealthy substances such as too much alcohol, sugar, and more; don't be mean and punitive towards yourself, if you notice mistakes you've made or things you don't like about yourself--acknowledge them and make a commitment to change, make a plan to change, and get started.

— **Dr. Barry Sarvet**,
chair, Department of Psychiatry,
Baystate Health

Women's Health

Annual preventive exams are vital in detecting conditions like breast cancer or cervical dysplasia at an early, manageable, and treatable stage. The well-woman visit is a perfect time to address bothersome symptoms, set health goals and learn updates on disease prevention. Checking in annually with an established provider supports a trusted relationship which facilitates seamless care if a medical problem arises.

— **Dr. Julie Thompson**,
FACOG, IFMCP, chief, Obstetrics,
Baystate Franklin Medical Center and
Pioneer Women's Health



Dr. Julie Thompson

When Emergencies Happen

My health tip for the new year is one that will come in handy for a lifetime. I often get the question: "When should I go to the Emergency Department compared to Urgent Care?"

It's not really a simple answer, but a good rule of thumb when any new, acute, severe, uncontrolled symptoms need to be addressed in the Emergency Department. For example, if you are having the worst headache of your life or experiencing any new acute severe shortness of breath, chest pain or abdominal pain, you should go the Emergency Department. If you are having any bleeding from an injury that is not under control with simple first aid measures, that also belongs in the ED. If you are experiencing any new neurologic symptoms or new seizures/convulsions, that also needs to be attended to in the ED.


Anytime there is a loss of consciousness from any cause, that should also be evaluated in the ED. Urgent Care is an ideal locale for the care of minor injuries and ailments like coughs, colds, earaches, urinary tract infections, insect bites and stings. Urgent Care is also appropriate for acute flare-ups of chronic conditions such as migraine headaches, asthma, gout, and eczema.

Most urgent care centers have on-site x-rays and can take care of acute fractures and other minor traumas. It is also important to know during the current pandemic that you should not be afraid to go to the ED with any new acute severe symptoms as all hospitals have protocols in place to protect patients and their families from potential exposure to COVID-19. Trying to "tough it out at home" can be a fatal mistake if it's an acute heart attack or stroke.

— **Dr. Brian P. Sutton**,
FACEP, medical director, Baystate
Health Urgent Care



Dr. Brian Sutton



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Russ LaPierre poses along the Claude M. Trail at the Knightville floodplain in Huntington.
Submitted photos



Kim Kelliher stands in an open area of the flood plain with a lingering dusting of snow.



Kim Kelliher takes a look at a wilderness relic.





Lyle Congdon and Russ LaPierre combine forces to show the width of a tree found along the trail.



Lyle Congdon keeps an eye on the scenery, and her furry companion, during the hike.



Kim Kelliher, Russ LaPierre, and Karen McTaggart carefully make their way up the snow-covered trail.



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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS or SPOON ROAST **\$3⁹⁹** lb

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HAMPSHIRE

Students, teachers enjoy being back in class

By Peter Spotts

Remote learning was a difficult adjustment for students, teachers, and administration, but as 2021 begins, the December switch to bring everybody back into Hampshire Regional High School — even if it’s just a couple of days per week — is bolstering school morale at the dawn of the new year.

Junior McKenzie Nichols, who is returning with her last classmates to the building for the first time since March, and seventh grader Ella Cleary, who’s been in the school on a hybrid basis for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, both have enjoyed having the school back and it was nice to finally see their friends and classmates outside of FaceTime and other virtual meeting platforms.

“It’s been kind of weird, but it’s a lot better and feels a lot more normal now that everyone’s back,” Cleary said. “It feels a lot more like high school and what I’ve heard about it from my friends who are older than me. I like it a lot better... I think because I wasn’t really seeing people that much, I just felt a lot better it’s nice to see people that you don’t just see in school.

“I felt like a kid in a candy store. It was super exciting,” Nichols said. “I think it really helped remind people why they do it and why you should stay motivated in school. It’s easy to get very lax in online school because it feels like it doesn’t matter.”

“Student morale for the in-person students is high,” Principal Kristin Smidy said. “Many are happy to be back in the building, while our students who opted into the remote model are appreciative that they can still participate in the same classes with their same teachers. That was a challenge that many communities faced, and I’m happy that we were able to figure out a way to maintain students’ schedules and connections to HRHS teachers for all students regardless of the model they are in.”

Students and staff made the transition back to welcoming everyone back — only the seventh grade and special education students have been in-person — last month before the holiday break. While about 30% of student population opted to continue fully remote, it’s a welcome change for those pining to get back into the classroom for both their academic

success and social health. During the first quarter of remote learning, failure rates rose by 13% from last year.

“It was tough to start school remotely. It was super discouraging...I definitely think a lot of students are struggling,” Nichols said. “I’m lucky, I was able to go back to school a couple weeks ago to start hybrid. I have a pretty strong relationship with my teachers and had a lot of my teachers this year that I had last year.”

Ninth grade Special Education teacher Tara Winters, who also has two children in the district, said she feels the school could’ve come back in the in-person hybrid model at the start of the year when COVID-19 case numbers were lower and the hilltowns have natural social distance within the spread-out rural communities. While there are concerns, she feels it’s best for the students to have them back in the classroom in 2021.

“Due to the recent surge in covid cases, there are valid concerns that many have, particularly if they have compromised health or there are members of their household they could affect,” Winters said. “This being said, it felt imperative to invite students back into the building as soon as possible; a much higher percentage of students failed during the first quarter while others are suffering in the social-emotional realm. I’m already seeing a benefit to students who are back in the building. The beauty of our model is that students/families can choose to stay remote if that makes the best sense for their situation while others can safely resume in the building where it has felt very safe to me since I returned to work this summer. This also means if we need to return to a remote learning model, we are poised to do so.”

For Cleary and her seventh graders, the start of the year being the only grade in the building was an opportunity to acclimate to anew environment all to themselves.

“I thought it was a good transition kind of for covid,” Cleary said. “I feel like it kind of felt like elementary school. At least at Westhampton Elementary, there weren’t a lot of kids. It didn’t feel like this huge transition.”

The new school also brought the return of athletics with modifications for COVID-19. Both Cleary and Nichols were able to participate in fall sports and

are looking forward to hopefully being able to do more in the future. Nichols competes in track & fields and hopes the individual nature of the sport will allow it to be easily adapted come springtime for COVID-19 safety measures.

“I think it’s going to be different, but I’m hoping because it’s a sport that’s noncontact it’ll be as close to a regular season as possible,” she said. “I think cross country season from this fall was the best way to see it— a lot of masked running on the roads and stuff. Hampshire is lucky because we have access to country fields and everything.”

“I think it [junior varsity soccer] was mostly the same except you had to wear a mask and there wasn’t as much contact, but the practices still felt the same because you’re with your team almost every day of the week,” added Cleary.

In order to bring the students back, administration and staff reflected on the 2019-2020 school year to improve and build upon safety protocols and schedules already in place, but Smidy said it’s too early to tell how in-person hybrid will improve the situation further.

“With the shift in the model, there are lots of opinions about this year and we barely had time to reflect on the model from quarter one, and it admittedly feels a little uncomfortable to not be able to perfect something before making the shift,” Smidy said. “I know that teachers would love no more than to get back to in-person learning for all students, but also want to ensure that the safety expectations and precautions are clear so there are no interruptions in the model for that consistency due to in school transmission of COVID, which we have not had. With this current hybrid schedule, the staff are working extremely hard to support students in both models, which I think is unique.”

As the school year progresses,

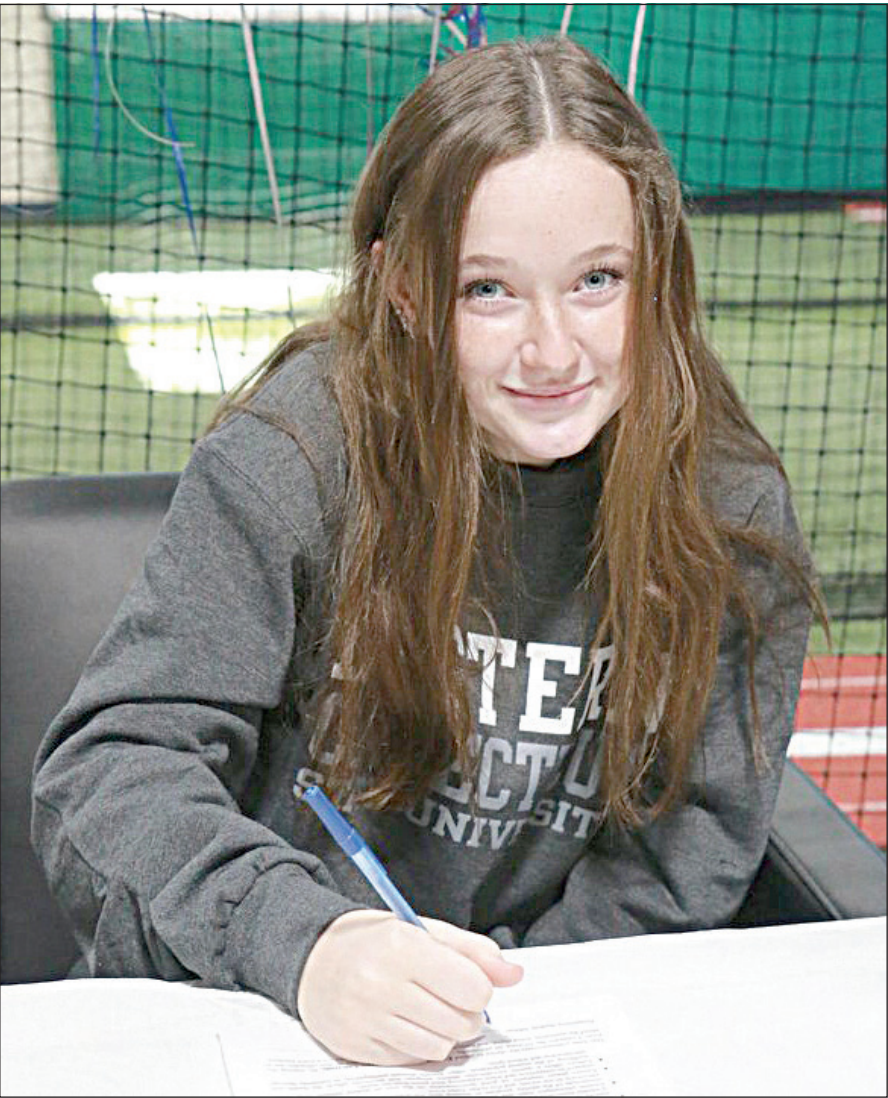
administration will continue working with teachers to refine the learning models and make the experience and environment the bet it can be for student learning. After successful senior events last fall, including the annual parking lot spot painting party and a Halloween party outdoors, Smidy also hopes there will be new ways in the spring to bring the school community together for fun activities as well.

“Right now, we are focusing on spring activities and activities that can be done virtually,” she said. “One of the mitigation strategies that the Board of Health is pushing is that events should happen outside whenever possible. We want to be sure that we are planning some really fun activities for our students, but in the fall, all of those activities were outside. I’m open to continuing to be thoughtful about this and hope to do as much as possible for our students to engage in social school-sponsored events.”

“I think that after the new year and Christmas, all the winter holidays, everything’s going to get worse, but I think in the spring it’ll be getting a lot better,” said Cleary. “I hope that the vaccine will come out and everybody will realize we’ve been quarantining and taking precautions for such a long time that not doing anything will set us back like a lot.”

“I’m optimistic that we’ll be able to transition to more in-person learning. I think the district is trying to be conservative with it because they don’t want to have to go back to fully remote,” added Nichols. “I’m looking forward mostly to going back into school more and hoping being able to have some class events and stuff. I know our Student Council is planning and trying to do that. Juniors are really looking forward to senior year and hope it will be as close to normal as possible.”

SIGNING DAY



Hampshire Regional High School three-letter sports senior Maggie Rubeck signs letter of intent to attend Eastern Connecticut State University. Rubeck, as an eighth grader, made Varsity baseball, basketball and soccer. She is shy 300 points for the 1,000-point banner in basketball and is shy seven hits from achieving the 100-hit goal at HRHS. She is also a gold medal recipient in all-state soccer and placed fourth in the national awards.

Submitted photo by Norm Cotnoir

OTIS

COVID-19 testing, flu shots available

OTIS — The Otis Council on Aging and community health programs are sponsoring COVID-19 testing and regular flu shots at the Otis Town Hall beginning on Friday, Jan. 15, and on each third

Friday thereafter. No appointment is necessary. Drive-through and mask wearing protocols will be in place. Please bring medical insurance cards. Hours will be 10 a.m. to noon.

Notice Otis launches with architectural presentation Thursday, Jan. 28

OTIS — The Otis Preservation Trust and the Otis Historical Commission invite residents to the Notice Otis series of cultural and educational events this winter. These programs are free to all registrants.

On Thursday, Jan. 28, Bonnie Parsons, locally renown historic preservationist, will give a PowerPoint presentation on the History of Otis’ Architectural Styles. As appreciated in all the hilltowns’ own buildings, Otis has a rich architectural history with pre-Revolutionary houses set among bungalows and ranches, with buildings designed to look like Greek temples and a French Second Empire building that aimed to convey its builder’s sophistication. There are houses whose

porches were inspired by Italian villas and Capes that were built after World War II to house a growing population. Using the buildings in Otis as the examples, this talk will sort out the architectural styles in a narrative that will give participants a way to look at their surrounding neighborhoods and enjoy these architectural gifts. Currently, the Otis downtown area is awaiting final approval from the United States Department of Interior, National Parks Service for Historic District recognition.

The first event will be held online via Zoom. To register for this free event, go to optin.today or the town’s website, townofotisma.com.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to "oohed"
- 6. Relaxing places
- 10. Humorous monologue
- 14. Simple elegance
- 15. Bearable
- 17. Disobedience
- 19. Express delight
- 20. Gov't attorneys
- 21. Wake up
- 22. A type of band
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Battle-ax
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life history
- 34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 35. Doubles
- 37. Jacob __, American journalist
- 38. House pet
- 39. S. African river
- 40. Broad sashes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency exchange charge
- 2. River in Tuscany
- 3. Breakfast dish
- 4. Defunct European currency

- 41. Establish as a foundation
- 43. KGB double agent Aldrich __
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Train group (abbr.)
- 50. Frames per second
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
- 58. Guitarist sounds
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps escape

- 5. Upper class young woman
- 6. Part of a purse
- 7. Self-contained units
- 8. Boxing's GOAT
- 9. Legislators
- 10. Flightless birds
- 11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
- 12. Floating ice
- 13. Low, marshy land
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Lyric poems
- 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 23. Full extent of something
- 24. __ Claus
- 25. Naturally occurring solid material
- 27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- 28. Thirteen
- 29. Partner to cheese

- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Small Eurasian deer
- 39. Provisions
- 42. All humans have them
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Storage term (abbr.)
- 46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. Flute
- 51. Flew off!
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Populous Brazilian city
- 55. Malaysian Isthmus
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may be tempted to loosen up and show more of your personality at work this week. Just remember to exercise discretion in situations that call for professional demeanor.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you may finally get the answer to a problem or situation that has been on your mind for some time. It will be a relief to finally let this go and focus on new possibilities.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, playing it casual and projecting your friendly charm simply isn't going to cut it at work this week. You will have to make it clear that you're ready for a serious discussion.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
You are generous with your time, and now many people are asking for help. You may start to feel burdened. Learn how to say "no" with tact.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, check in with a friend if you have an emotional issue that needs working through. It won't be helpful to keep your feelings bottled up inside for too long.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Think before you speak this week, Taurus; otherwise, you may let go of something you had preferred to keep to yourself. Carefully think over your comments.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, take some time this week to brainstorm creatively. How would you change things if time and money were no issue? Speculating can provide inspiration.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, temptation is around every corner. Figure out a way to stay grounded and on a successful track. Friends and family are ready and willing to help.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, try to balance your feelings by focusing on the facts rather than "what ifs." It's alright to feel anxious, but try not to let it overwhelm you the next few days.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, even when under pressure, you manage to present yourself as capable of getting the job done. Always put your best foot forward and portray yourself as someone who is steady.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
An issue that has to be addressed this week, Sagittarius, even though you would rather it just disappear. Focus on a plan and then get others to back you.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Being in a relationship is a balance of give and take, Pisces. You may feel uncomfortable asking for what you need, but you shouldn't.

answers

8	7	9	1	6	7	9	2	8
9	1	6	2	8	9	8	7	7
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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GOSHEN

Street listing out, dog licenses available

GOSHEN — The 2021 annual street listings have been mailed to each household in Goshen. If someone hasn't received one, printable blank copies are available on the Town Clerk webpage at www.goshen-ma.us, or contact the clerk's office to receive another 413-268-8236 x107 and clerk@goshen-ma.us.

Please fill out info for everyone who lives in the house, sign and return to 40 Main St. Goshen, MA 01032. It is important the town keeps an accurate count of residents as it determines state and federal funding for the town. Responding to the street listing will also keep residents on the active voting list, if registered to vote.

Additionally, the 2021 dog licenses are in. A dog licensing form was mailed

with the street listing; neutered/ spayed dogs are \$5 each and intact dogs are \$10. Valid rabies certificates are required and must be sent with the dog license form. A certificate of spaying/neutering must also be sent to obtain a spayed female or neutered male license.

As the town offices are still closed to the public at this time, please send the dog license form, fees, and certificates along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the licenses and tags to Goshen Town Clerk, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032. Residents may also drop the paperwork off in the town clerk drop box, located to the left of the door to the town offices. Last year's licenses expire on March 31, 2021.

Open burning season begins Jan. 15

GOSHEN — Open burning season begins in the new year and run from Jan. 15 through May 1, as mandated by the state. Applications are available for those interested in doing an open burn.

The online application is available at Goshen-ma.us. Applicants will be asked for their name, telephone number, and location of the brush pile to be burned. Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the day the burn is to take place. Permits may be requested for each day of burning. No permits are issued in advance due to the potential for changing weather conditions. On days when open burning is not permitted due to weather conditions, the online application will be disabled.

All open burning fires must be

started by 1 p.m. and fully extinguished by 4 p.m. Failure to follow these rules can result in the revocation of your permit for the remainder of the open burning season. There is no fee for this permit.

Goshen residents who do not want to use the online application must call the Goshen Fire Department business line, 413-268-7161, to schedule an inspection and receive a written permit. Inspections of the brush pile will only be completed on Friday mornings, so plan accordingly. People who use the online application do not have to go through this inspection process.

For more information, applications, or open burning safety tips, visit goshen-ma.us/open-burning-permits

BROADBAND

of technology. Board of Health Chairman Michael Kurland has worked with the Selectboard, Emergency Management, and other administrative staff to provide personal protective equipment to all first responders, essential disinfectant and sanitizing supplies, improved air exchange equipment, and remote access to town board and committee meetings.

Along with working with the Council on Aging and the Hilltown Food Pantry, the town has made sure to help the community in any way they could, especially during the town and primary elections process. With all the projects that were completed, the broadband project was being worked on the entire year. There were poles being inspected and repaired or replaced during the year, and the connection of fiber to poles on the road is anticipated to begin February 2021.

"That's what we're hoping for, is to get started in February, but I can't give a specific date," Selectman Wayne Glaser said. "I was told not to give specific dates because things can always change, but we're on track so far."

There have been many discussions involving the broadband project in Selectboard meetings, including the last meeting of 2020 where board members discussed how connecting homes will be done.

"The most exciting thing we have to look forward to is high speed internet here in Goshen in the coming year," Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti said. "Having the Broadband network built and available to residents will be the fruition of many years of work by people past and present."

There are updates to the broadband project on the town website when there is

new information and Glaser is personally overseeing the projects progress.

For the construction of the wires and fiber to the poles, Sri-Wire Engineering has been awarded the distribution network construction contract while Westfield Gas and Electric is the Internet Service Provider. While the town is still awaiting the completion of the inspection of poles, they have already purchased and placed the Network Hut near town hall.

"Construction is expected to take four to six months," Scaparotti said. "Fiber installations to homes and business will be coordinated with completed portions of the construction and continue until all those who have signed up are connected. The poles are almost ready to receive the fiber that is an essential part of the distribution network, after the poles are finished and approved the network can be connected and the town will

have internet available."

Another project that the town can look forward to this year is the feasibility study for the Multipurpose Highway building; the study will investigate the appropriate and optimal design criteria of the structure. The study will include the location, cost, scale, and the potential project phasing of a multiuser building to replace or enhance the current highway building and garage, the police, and emergency management areas. This feasibility phase will help to ensure that the scale and design of the project is realistic from different perspectives including people, project planning, implementation, and pricing. There are various reasons for a new highway space including insufficient storage and heat, the town and department members should look forward a new multipurpose building in the future.

from page 1

WORTHINGTON

Dog licenses available for 2021

WORTHINGTON — Dog licenses for 2021 are now available and any dogs old enough to be vaccinated for rabies should get a 2021 license by March 31.

Dogs must have a current rabies certificate when getting a license. The cost is \$5 for spayed or neutered and \$10 for male or female. Please mail or put the rabies certificate, fee, and a letter-sized self-addressed envelope in the drop box. Items can be mailed to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098. Rabies certificates will be returned with the new tags.



Fund available for heating needs

WORTHINGTON — The Whiting Street Fund Committee would like to remind Worthington residents about the Whiting Street Fund as heating season peaks.

The fund exists for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to Worthington residents who are experiencing short-term financial needs. The fund helps individuals and families with expenses that directly affect their well-being. For example, assistance has been provided with medical expenses, car repair and, especially this time of

year, fuel bills. Any Worthington resident can apply for financial assistance by contacting a member of the Whiting Street Fund board.

The Board confidentially reviews all applications and if approved, arranges for the bill to be paid. For more information or to apply for assistance, either email the Board at WhitingStreet@worthington-ma.us or call any member — Bruce Barshefsky at 413-563-8888, Diane Meehan at 413-238-0001, or Cath Whitcomb at 413-238-5968.

IMPROVEMENTS

"There will be three-phase power pretty much from the center of town to the Peru line on 143. If somebody needs it for a business, they'll be able to get it," Rose said. "Somebody wanted to put in a large-scale solar array several years ago and it turned out the cost to wire the power to the location was ridiculous... Commercially it opens up some opportunities."

Route 143 will be busy as Phase 1 of the road work will also continue in the spring. Phase 1 requires paving from Chesterfield to Cold Street. However, some of the paving that was supposed to be done before winter was not finished, so there will be some extra work come springtime, in addition to what was scheduled.

"The plan was to get a first player of pavement down everywhere and to get the roundabout done, then to come back and put the second layer of pavement down

next summer," Rose said. "They didn't get any paving done so nothing got paved beyond the roundabout. Now they have to come back next summer and do the paving everywhere."

The R.H. Conwell Elementary School has work to be done. Rose said the town originally hoped to have a bid package last summer to address problems with the gym and cafeteria area, peeling on the school siding, insulation, and upgrading the sprinkler system, but it's now become a project for this coming summer.

"Now we're working again to get a bid out and hopefully get the work done this coming summer," he said. "It's a fairly pricey project and the town will have to authorize the expense. We've got to get the bids out, hopefully get a bid, and for Annual Town Meeting this year come with a figure."

The town is also progressing on its search for a new Senior Center location

with help from the Hilltown CDC. Rose said a grant was already executed to look at properties and came up with a general design for the Moran property next to Town Hall. The next step is getting a design to bring before the town.

"The money will hopefully be there to do actual architectural drawings and it can go to bid," Rose said.

Founder's Day had become a popular, annual staple in town over the past couple years. Unfortunately, it was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, but Rose said the town is looking forward to being able to bring back the day of community fun when it is safe to do so.

"We certainly want to have it. Who knows; maybe by then it'll be safe or maybe it'll be safe late in the summer," he said. "Initially we put it off until September and it turned out that didn't happen. Once it's safe we definitely would want to do it again."

from page 1

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OBITUARY

Linda Suzanne (Torrey) Dugas, 67

Linda Suzanne (Torrey) Dugas, 67, of Southamptton, MA passed away on Dec. 29, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center after a short illness. Linda was born Nov. 29, 1953 in Greenfield, MA the daughter of Elizabeth P. Torrey of Pompano Beach, FL, and the late Richard E. Torrey. Linda grew up a resident of Easthampton, MA.

After graduating from Easthampton High School in 1972, Linda attended Baystate Medical School of Nursing and later received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and Master's Degree in Education from St. Joseph's College Maine. She began her career as a registered nurse working at Baystate Medical Center and later as the school nurse and administrator for the Gateway Regional School district where she retired from in 2015.

Upon graduating from medical school, she married her husband of 44 years, Denis J. Dugas, and raised their family of three sons in Southamptton, MA. Linda's warm, caring and fun-loving personality was adored by many. Everyone Linda met, she welcomed with open arms and immediately became a friend. She was active throughout the community serving on various organizations and always could be found cheering on her sons at ballgames and spending cherished time with friends and family. Known for her artistic talents, Linda was skilled in basket weaving, quilting, and painting and shared those talents with others in her basement classes. Linda enjoyed spending time in the summers



at the family's home on Cape Cod relishing the beautiful beaches and ocean air. She also treasured her annual trips to Maui with her husband.

Linda is survived by her husband Denis J. Dugas of Southamptton, MA; son Eric J. Dugas and daughter-in-law Melissa Dugas of Norfolk, MA; son Brian A. Dugas of Southamptton, MA; son Jeffrey M. Dugas and daughter-in-law Martha Dugas of Southamptton, MA; as well as six loving grandchildren, William, Jack, Sara, Jakob, James and Matthew. She is also survived by mother Elizabeth P. Torrey of Pompano Beach, FL; mother and father-in-law Lorraine and Arthur Dugas of Sun City Center, FL; brother David Torrey of Santa Rosa, CA; sister Diane Pacocha and brother-in-law Edward Pacocha of Ludlow, MA; sister Jennifer Torrey of Santa Rosa, CA; brother-in-law Michael Dugas; sister-in-law Pamela Dugas and her husband Todd of Easthampton, MA; nieces and nephews Alyson, Haley, Katie, Hannah, Tara, Kristopher, Melissa, Zachary; and countless other relatives and friends.

The family is planning to celebrate Linda's life during a private ceremony to take place at a later date. The family asks that In lieu of flowers, donations be made in memory of Linda Dugas to the Massachusetts General Hospital, Center for Celiac Research and Treatment 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114-0221 or at because.massgeneral.org/LindaDugas.

DEATH NOTICE

DUGAS (TORREY), LINDA SUZANNE

Died Dec. 29, 2020
Services are Private

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice
Town of Blandford
Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held for all persons interested in the application for two special permits by Lise Lawrence. The hearing will take place at the Blandford Town Hall, one Russell Stage Road, on **Thursday, January 28th, 2021, at 7:00 pm.**

The first request for a special permit is for a retail residential kitchen.

The second request is for a mail order board game to be manufactured and shipped from the residence of lise Lawrence.

Both permits are for the property on 42 Gore Road, Blandford.

The applicable section of the Zoning by-law is 4.1.1.6 and can be found on page10 (ten) of the 2020 Zoning By-laws on the Town of Blandford MA Website.

Due to the current pandemic caused by covid-19, there has been a suspension of certain provisions of the open meeting law G.L.C. 30A 18, as well as a limitation on the size of gatherings placed into effect by the Governor on March 15th, 2020. **Any participation by interested parties may be done remotely.** The phone number is 425-436-6311. And the access number is 248-324#. This will connect the caller to a chat room that has the hearing.

Donald Brainerd
Chairman Blandford ZBA
For any questions please call 413-848 2332
1/07, 1/14/2021

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Worthington Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing in response to a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding the construction of a one-story garage at 73 Buffington Hill Road.

The Hearing will be held **Thursday, January 21, 20201 at 7 PM. Remote** public access is available via phone or computer. The link, phone number and access

code can be found on the Town website's community calendar – on the date of the meeting.
01/07/2021

TOWN OF OTIS
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS

The Town of Otis, acting through its Board of Selectmen, requests sealed proposals from qualified companies for a Lease Agreement for certain Town-owned real property situated in Otis, Massachusetts together with a non-exclusive right of reasonable access thereto and to the closest source of electric and telephone facilities for the sole purpose of constructing, installing, operating, maintaining and repairing one or more cellular/wireless communication facilities to provide personal communications services, including a telecommunications tower, antennas, an equipment pad or shelter, cables, transmission and utility wires, poles, conduits, pipes, accessories and related equipment and improvements at said Town owned property. Under the proposed Lease Agreement, the Town of Otis would own the land, the Lessee would own the facility, and the Lessee would use the land for the facility. A Request for Proposals package may be obtained from the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 1 North Main Rd., Otis, MA during the hours of 9 am - 4 pm, Monday through Thursday or by emailing townadmin@townofotisma.com. **Sealed proposals are due at the Office of the Board of Selectmen by Thursday January 28, 2021 at 2:00 pm** when all proposals will be publicly opened and a Register of Proposals will be prepared. The Board of Selectmen is the awarding authority and reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any proposal and to make any award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interests of the Town of Otis.

Board of Selectmen
1/07, 1/14/2021

TOWN OF BLANDFORD, MA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please join the public hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/826535757>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 826535757 New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/826535757>

Pursuant to MGL., CH. 40A, Sec. 11 the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008, **virtually at 7:00 PM on January 21, 2021**, at the Selectmen's Office to present zoning bylaw amendments. Full articles and changes are on the Town web site, the Town Bulletin Board. Copies are also available at the Town Office and Town Library.

Articles

To recodify, and therefore amend, the Zoning By-Law to make the By-Law easier for users to navigate, simplify and update its language, and provide a better structure for predictability and flexibility in both the interests of current use and future adaptability, by:

1. Reorganizing and renumbering portions of the Zoning-Bylaw to enhance accessibility and adaptability;
2. Updating and clarifying the purpose and authority of the Zoning By-Law to clearly state the Town's legal and factual premises for zoning regulations;
3. Providing consistency with present State law;
4. Eliminating redundant or unnecessary provisions; making amendments such as correcting spelling and typographical errors, and eliminating or updating outdated statutory references;
5. Revising and clarifying Zoning By-Law administrative provisions;
6. Updating the sign section of the By-Law;
7. Adding new criteria for Special Permit approval.

and by taking the following actions:

1. Deleting in their entirety the following provisions of the existing Zoning By-Law:

Section I	Purpose
2.1	Use of Structure (Non-Conforming Uses)
2.2	Alteration (Non-Conforming Uses)
2.3 and 2.3.1	Extension (Non-Conforming Uses)
2.4	Abandonment (Non-Conforming Uses)
2.5	Changes (Non-Conforming Uses)
3.3.3	Address of lot and lot assignments
4.1.1.6 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)	Home occupations
5.2.1-5.2.10	Signs regulations
5.5.5	Variances
5.6	Appeals to Housing Court
Section VII	Planning and Zoning Authorized to Act
Section IX	Site Plan Review

2. Replacing the following provisions of the Zoning By-Law whose proposed changes are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board:

Section I	Purpose
2.1	Applicability
2.2	Nonconforming Uses
2.3	Non-Conforming Structures
2.4	Special Permit Required
2.5	Nonconforming Single and Two-Family Residential Structures
3.3.3	Changing Address and Lot Numbers
4.1.1.6(a)(b)	Home occupations
5.2.1-5.2.9	Permanent Signs, Temporary Signs and Placement of Signs
5.5.5	Variances
5.6	Appeals
Section VII	Administration and Procedures
Section IX	Site Plan Review and Special Permits

3. Adding the following provisions to the Zoning By-Law whose

proposed changes are on file in the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board:

2.2.1	Farms in the residential district (Nonconforming Uses)
2.6	Abandonment or Non-Use
2.7	Reconstruction After Catastrophe or Demolition
2.8	Reversion to Nonconformity
5.2.10-5.2.12	Sign Permits
7.1	Enforcement Officer; Penalty; Permits; Exemptions
7.1.1	Building Commissioner
7.1.2	Violations
7.1.3	Enforcement
7.1.4	Further Action
7.1.5	Penalty
7.2	Board of Appeals
7.2.1	Establishment
7.2.2	Powers of the Board of Appeals
7.2.3	Rules and Regulations
7.2.4	Fees
7.3	Planning Board
7.3.1	Establishment
7.3.2	Powers
7.3.3	Associate Member
7.3.4	Rules and Regulations
7.3.5	Fees
9.2	Special Permits
9.2.1	Special Permit Granting Authority
9.2.2	Criteria
9.2.3	Procedures
9.2.4	Conditions
9.2.5	Plans
9.2.6	Regulations
9.2.7	Fees

4. And by taking any action related thereto

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should contact planning@townofblandford.com to be added to the Agenda. Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 or join us virtually. Failure to make recommendations on the matter for review shall be deemed lack of opposition thereto. A copy of the proposed articles is available for review at the Blandford web site at <https://townofblandford.com/boards-committees/planning-board/> Blandford Post Office and Town Hall.

Michael Hutchins, Chair
Blandford Planning Board

01/07, 01/14/2021

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This is a school year position and sal-
ary will be negotiated. The Security
Monitor is responsible for providing
daily security for the school building
and property and ensures the safety
and security of students, staff, building,
and grounds. Hours of position are
7:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Position to start
February 8, 2021.
Please send letter of interest and
reume to: David B. Hopson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent, Gateway Regional
School District, 12 Littleville Road,
Huntington, MA 01050.
Deadline for Application: January 15,
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